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2 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY3 PUBLIC MEETING IN RE: PROPOSED )  
4 )  
5 SOIL CLEANUP PLAN FOR )  
6 )  
7 MATTHIESSEN & HEGELER ZINC )  
8 )  
9 SUPERFUND SITE )  
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23 )8 REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the public meeting  
9 held on the 3rd day of December, 2015, at the  
10 LaSalle-Peru Township High School, 541 Chartres Street,  
11 LaSalle, Illinois, at 7:00 p.m.

## 12 PRESIDED BY:

13 MS. TERESA R. JONES  
14 Community Involvement Coordinator

## 15 PRESENTED BY:

16 MS. DEMAREE COLLIER  
17 Remedial Project Manager  
18  
19  
20  
21  
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1 MS. JONES: Okay. We're going to get ready to  
2 get started.

3 Welcome, everyone, and thanks for coming  
4 out to the Matthiessen & Hegeler proposed plan meeting.

5 MS. GEARHART: Can you speak up louder? We  
6 can't hear you back here.

7 MS. JONES: This is better?

8 MS. GEARHART: Yes.

9 MS. JONES: Hi, everyone. My name is Teresa  
10 Jones, and I'm with the U.S. EPA, and I will be  
11 facilitating this evening's meeting. I would like to  
12 start out by introducing you to the site team. The  
13 first person is Demaree Collier. She is the project  
14 manager for the site. We also have with us Keith  
15 Fusinski, he is the risk assessor for the site. We  
16 also have Mark Johnson with ATSDR. We also have  
17 Michelle College, she is also with ATSDR. We also have  
18 with us Ruth Muhtsun, she is with the U.S. EPA as well.  
19 We also have Mike Haggitt, he is with Illinois EPA. We  
20 also have Scott Brockway, he is an EPA contractor.  
21 Eric Morton, also an EPA contractor. Ray Mastro- --  
22 start over -- Ray Mastrolonardo. We'll get that. He  
23 is also an EPA contractor. And Gina Campuzano, she is

1 out in the lobby, she is also an EPA contractor.

2                   And before we begin, I would like to go  
3 over a few ground rules. If anyone has a cell phone,  
4 we ask that you mute those at this time so they carry  
5 no interruptions during the presentation. And we're  
6 going to start with the presentation from Demaree and  
7 Keith, and we ask that you hold all of your questions  
8 and comments to after the presentation. After the  
9 presentation we will open up a Q and A for ten minutes  
10 for questions in regards to the presentation, and after  
11 that we're going to move directly into the formal  
12 comment period, and I will give instructions at that  
13 time.

14                   And with no further ado, I will turn the  
15 meeting over to Demaree, and thanks again for coming  
16 out.

17                   MS. COLLIER: How is this? Everyone going to  
18 be okay? I'm pretty loud anyway.

19                   So thank you all for coming out. I know  
20 I see a few familiar faces from our first time around.  
21 I'm glad to see some new faces, so it looks like our  
22 mailer made it out a lot better the second time around.

23                   So here today I am going to be

1 presenting the proposed plan for the Matthiessen &  
2 Hegeler site. We would like to keep no questions  
3 during the actual presentation. After the  
4 presentation, as Teresa said, we'll give about ten  
5 minutes for questions related specifically to the  
6 presentation, and then we need to go right into the  
7 formal public comments so that we can make them.

8 I'm going to run through some of this  
9 pretty quickly just because there are about 50 slides,  
10 so I'm going to have Keith Fusinski, who is our risk  
11 assessor, jump in a few times to get into some more  
12 specific kind of human health related issues and  
13 dealings with the site.

14 Okay. Going through, Teresa kind of  
15 already did this part with the introduction, so I'm  
16 just going to skip right through that. What I'm going  
17 to do is go through a really brief site history, a  
18 summary of contamination and risks at the site. The  
19 main purpose is to discuss the cleanups that we're  
20 proposing to the community for the site, and then we'll  
21 do our questions and answers and our public comment  
22 period.

23 This is the site as a whole. What

1 you're seeing is the former smelting area, Carus  
2 Chemical Company and a small portion of the residential  
3 community. What we're going to be going through with  
4 this is just some basic history. A lot of you are  
5 probably far more familiar with the history of the site  
6 than I am.

7                   For Carus Chemical, we call that OU1,  
8 which is operable unit number one. It's how we  
9 designate it, and I'll explain a little bit more what  
10 that means as we get to it. Operable unit one consists  
11 of Carus Chemical Company. There is a large slag pile,  
12 about 15 acres or so, behind the facility and the  
13 Little Vermilion River. Operable unit two consists of  
14 the former rolling mill area and the residential  
15 community.

16                   Focusing on operable unit one, Carus  
17 Chemical has been manufacturing potassium permanganate  
18 since about 1915. They still currently operate and  
19 exist on the footprint that you see on the slide.  
20 Operable unit two is the former smelting company known  
21 as Matthiessen & Hegeler when it began operations.  
22 They began in 1958, continued smelting. They also then  
23 produced zinc sheets. They had an ammonium fertilizer

1 kind of by-product. They also did some sulfuric acid  
2 manufacturing as a by-product from some of the  
3 smelting. They also then continued operations up until  
4 about 2000, and then in 2000 they -- LaSalle Rolling  
5 Mills was the owner, and they went through bankruptcy.  
6 Currently, up until right now, the rolling mill that  
7 still exists at the site is used mostly for warehousing  
8 purposes. So that's kind of just the really brief  
9 history of the site.

10                   How this became a Superfund site is  
11 basically in 1991 the State of Illinois, Illinois EPA  
12 started investigating the site. They then asked the  
13 Public Health Department and ATSDR to do a human health  
14 assessment, and based upon the health assessment, ATSDR  
15 and Public Health basically said that the site does  
16 have contamination that warrants it had to be proposed  
17 to the National Priorities List. So the National  
18 Priorities List in 2003 added this site to the list,  
19 Matthiessen & Hegeler, mainly because of metals found  
20 in slag across the site and because of the large slag  
21 pile existing behind Carus Chemical Company that also  
22 has slag on it.

23                   For designating a site as an NPL site,

1 we then had to begin the process of investigating the  
2 site. So we signed an administrative order of consent  
3 with Carus Chemical Company in 2006, and basically what  
4 we did then is we said Carus Chemical Company will  
5 investigate and perform a feasibility study which looks  
6 at the different alternatives to clean up the site for  
7 the chemical plant, the large slag pile and the river,  
8 and that's what we call operable unit one or OU1.

9 Operable unit two is the U.S. EPA led  
10 portion of this, so U.S. EPA then took the lead on the  
11 rolling mill portion of the site where the zinc  
12 smelting happened and the large residential area that  
13 extends around the site, and we call that operable unit  
14 two.

15 This is just a really kind of brief  
16 picture of what each operable unit exists or consists  
17 of. You'll notice the residential area cuts off. I  
18 have a better slide coming up that shows the  
19 residential area that we're looking at today, but this  
20 just shows where each area is across the site. We also  
21 on operable unit two, as it's such a large part of the  
22 site, we had to break it up a little bit so that we  
23 could look at each piece or a portion of the site at a

1 time. So we called those, as you see, operable unit  
2 two has a rolling mill area, a Building 100 area, main  
3 plant, off-site residential area, a wooded area north,  
4 a wooded area northeast, and then off to the -- off to  
5 the east you'll see off-site mixed-use area. And I'll  
6 go into a little more information on what each of those  
7 is.

8 Oh, thank you. A pointer, that could  
9 help. I didn't bring my own.

10 The Superfund process for where we are  
11 now, I wanted to give a quick overlay of how the  
12 process goes. So right now you can see we have done  
13 the investigation and the feasibility study. What  
14 we're doing right now is the proposed plan. The  
15 proposed plan is where we come to the community and we  
16 ask what the community's opinion and comment is on what  
17 EPA is proposing to everybody. So this is a very  
18 important part of what we do at EPA is looking for the  
19 community's input on how we move forward since this is  
20 your area, and so we want to hear what the community  
21 has to say pertaining specifically to what we propose.

22 So right now we are at the proposed  
23 plan. Once we have the decisions from everybody in the



1 community and the state and we look at those, the  
2 comments and everything generated, we then come up with  
3 the record of decision which is the document that says  
4 this is how the site will be cleaned up. So your  
5 comments will be included in what the decision document  
6 says. When you put in a public comment, that will be  
7 part of the record of decision, and you'll be able to  
8 see what the answer is to each of your comments. So  
9 tonight we won't be answering your comments. We'll be  
10 taking your comments and then going back and answering  
11 them in the record of decision.

12 Finally, after that, we have the  
13 remedial design where we design the remedy. We  
14 actually then do remedy implementation, and then for  
15 this site specifically we have what's called a  
16 five-year review. So every five years we have to do a  
17 full-on reanalysis of how the site is and if it's still  
18 protective of human health.

19 So this is the site. It's just a couple  
20 of pictures. The one with all of the black on it is  
21 kind of, I don't know, an overview bit of what the site  
22 looks like. And if you look to the slide on my left,  
23 you will see our notorious dirt bike ramps that have

1 been slowly built up out there at the site. We know  
2 we, obviously, have evidence of trespassing, and we  
3 would encourage anybody who knows of anybody  
4 trespassing to please tell them not to. Not only is  
5 there physical hazards out there; in fact, that ramp or  
6 one of the ones right there, there is a precipice that  
7 if you miss that ramp, you are going to fall down over  
8 kind of a ravine cliff. We would ask that, you know,  
9 please tell anybody not to go ahead and trespass on the  
10 site.

11                   So for OU1 -- and I'm going to do this  
12 for the presentation. I'm going to start off with OU1,  
13 which is the Carus Chemical part of things, and then  
14 I'll go into OU2 so that it kind of has a flow to it.

15                   For OU1, we have different risk exposure  
16 areas. We have the main plant area. We have the slag  
17 pile on the Carus Chemical facility or mostly on the  
18 Carus Chemical facility, and we have the river. For  
19 operable unit two -- and you may not be able to read  
20 really well what it says off to the side, but the  
21 shadings basically indicate where different exposure  
22 areas exist. So, for example, the green one at the  
23 bottom with crosshatches, that's the rolling mill, so

1 when we did an investigation, we focused in on that  
2 area. The orange area that has the little crosshatches  
3 with the blue shading there, that's what we call the  
4 Building 100 hot spot. There is a PCB hot spot in that  
5 area. The other orange area is the main plant facility  
6 where the former smelting occurred. Then we have  
7 some -- a north area. We have a northeast area, and  
8 I'll go into the risks associated with those a little  
9 bit further.

10 Right now I want to just -- again, this  
11 lists out the risk exposure areas. Two of the ones I  
12 should mention -- actually, three. We have the wooded  
13 area northeast, and we determined that there is no or  
14 minimal risk in that area. We have the off-site  
15 mixed-use area, which if I can go back, is kind of the  
16 purplish area across the way. We determined that has  
17 no -- the purple area is a mixed use. We called it a  
18 mixed-use area, and there is no risk associated with  
19 that part of the site. And then site-wide groundwater,  
20 we also have no risk associated with that, and I will  
21 go into a groundwater explanation a little bit further.  
22 I just wanted to give you all the -- the list of the  
23 areas we looked at.

1                   So now we list out our chemicals of  
2 concern. Based upon our investigations that we  
3 conducted, we found for both operable unit one and  
4 operable unit two there are chemicals of concern that  
5 we needed to address further in a risk assessment to  
6 determine what those risks were. Without going into  
7 much detail, you can see operable unit one consists  
8 primarily of metals. Operable unit two is primarily  
9 metals, some PCBs, a little asbestos and what we call  
10 our pesticides, what we call SVOCs, which are basically  
11 like solvents. So it gives you an idea that there is  
12 definitely a contamination site-wide with metals and a  
13 few other things that kind of follow behind.

14                   Now I'm going to have Keith Fusinski  
15 come up, and he's going to explain how we look at risk  
16 so that it's easier to determine as we go on how risks  
17 are perceived throughout the site.

18                   MR. FUSINSKI: So you're going to hear a lot  
19 about acceptable risk, unacceptable risk, within EPA  
20 risk range, and I wanted to make sure you guys  
21 understood what that means. So when we talk about  
22 residential risk, when we calculate a risk to the  
23 residents, that is based on someone being at their

1 house 24 hours a day for 350 days a year for 26 years,  
2 for the first six years of life and then 20 years after  
3 that. So we're being very conservative when we're  
4 looking at risk because how many people stay home 24  
5 hours a day, 350 days a year for 26 years? No one. We  
6 do give you 350 days a year, we give you two weeks off  
7 for vacation that you get to leave your house. So  
8 we're very conservative when we do these numbers. When  
9 we calculate the risk we're being extremely protective,  
10 so when we say it's an unacceptable risk, it's an  
11 unacceptable risk to someone who actually stays home  
12 for this time. When we talk about industrial or  
13 commercial risk, we talk about an eight-hour workday  
14 250 days a year for 25 years. So that's what these  
15 numbers are based on. They are very conservative  
16 numbers that we use to calculate risk and what's  
17 acceptable and what's unacceptable.

18 For noncancer, you'll hear a couple of  
19 things that -- either hazard index or hazard quotient.  
20 They are pretty much interchangeable. What they do is  
21 in a lab scientists will figure out, rather than do  
22 epidemiological studies on humans, how much of a  
23 chemical you can give an animal for a certain amount of

1 time and it not have an effect, and from that they  
2 extrapolate to humans. And basically what they do is  
3 they divide that dose that you're exposed to every day  
4 from your yards to what that dose was in the lab that  
5 doesn't have any effect. If it's less than one, that  
6 means you won't have any effect. If those amounts are  
7 equal, then you -- it's still safe. It's still safe  
8 because if there's no effect in the lab, it should have  
9 no effect on you. Anything above one, actually above  
10 three is when we start talking that there is a real --  
11 there may be a problem.

12                   For cancer, it's a chance. You'll hear  
13 one times (inaudible) risk or one in 10,000, or one in  
14 100,000. The way U.S. EPA works is it's a one in a  
15 million chance of getting cancer. So if we say that  
16 you're -- the arsenic levels in your yard are above our  
17 risk range, that means that if you take 100,000  
18 people -- or one million people and put them in your  
19 yard for 24 hours a day 350 days a year for 26 years,  
20 there is a chance that one of them might get cancer  
21 from the contaminants in your yard. So when you get  
22 these letters that have the numbers on it that say  
23 you're above our risk range, I want you to understand

1 that it doesn't mean you have a problem that something  
2 is going to definitely happen to you. It's there is a  
3 chance that if you're above our low end of the risk  
4 range, which is one in a million, then there is a  
5 chance if you put a million people there for 26 years,  
6 one of them might get cancer.

7 Our recommended -- our acceptable risk  
8 range or our recommended risk range is one in a  
9 million. Anything one in a million and higher you're  
10 fine. One in 10,000 to one in a million is our  
11 acceptable risk range. So basically it means if you  
12 put 10,000 people in your yard for 24 hours a day, 350  
13 days a year for 26 years, one of them might get cancer.  
14 That's in acceptable. That's the high end of our  
15 acceptable risk range. Now your chance of getting  
16 cancer from just being alive today and everything  
17 you're exposed to is one in three, so we're protecting  
18 you from a very, very, very, very small addition onto  
19 your one in three chance of just being alive in today's  
20 society. Anything above one in 10,000 or one times ten  
21 (inaudible) four, if you hear it like that, that means  
22 you're above our remediation level. That means  
23 something should be done. It doesn't mean something

1 bad is going to happen to you because those numbers are  
2 in your yard. It means that there is a chance, a one  
3 in 10,000 chance that something could happen, that  
4 someone could get sick from your yard. So I just  
5 wanted to make sure you guys understand when you see  
6 these numbers and she's talking about acceptable risk  
7 and everything, and unacceptable, that these numbers  
8 are actually very, very conservative and are very  
9 protective for human health to children and for the  
10 adults in this room. Okay.

11 MS. COLLIER: So he is my -- he is my expert  
12 for those who were here last time. I wanted to see if  
13 he could come along and explain what risk really means  
14 when we're talking in terms of Superfund sites and  
15 contaminants.

16 Okay. So now taking that with risk and  
17 moving to operable unit one, specific to the plant area  
18 and the -- specific to Carus Chemical plant area and  
19 the soil, we found that cancer and noncancer risks are  
20 within or below the acceptable risk range for worker  
21 scenario. We did find that lead concentrations exceed  
22 800 milligrams per kilogram, which is our industrial  
23 cleanup level, in two of 32 samples.



1                   For the slag pile, we found again  
2 cancer/noncancer are within or below our acceptable  
3 risk ranges. Lead concentrations were found in about  
4 half the samples that exceeded our 800 milligrams per  
5 kilogram.

6                   The other part of operable unit one is  
7 the Little Vermilion River, which is a very, you know,  
8 integral part of this community. We did a lot of  
9 sampling on the Little Vermilion River. We sampled  
10 surface water, sediment, fish tissue. We did  
11 invertebrates which are basically critters in the soil.  
12 We did, you know, assessments, and based upon all that  
13 sampling we found that sediment and surface water were  
14 within the acceptable risk range. We also found that  
15 fish consumption was within or below the acceptable  
16 risk range. There were some metals concentrations that  
17 we did find, but they weren't significant enough to  
18 cause any sort of risk. So at the end of this all,  
19 basically what it comes down to is there is something  
20 called a biotic integrity model which is basically what  
21 your river looks like to other sustainable rivers in  
22 the United States, and that this river was concluded to  
23 be fully supporting of aquatic life and use in Illinois

1 streams. So the Little Vermilion River does not right  
2 now have any impact to it based upon the Matthiessen &  
3 Hegeler site. So that part of operable unit one is  
4 considered entirely within the acceptable risk range.

5 For operable unit two, and just running  
6 through this quickly, Building 100 -- and this is  
7 all -- this is all dealing specific to soils -- there  
8 are some cancer risks associated with industrial  
9 commercial workers. There is lead present that is a  
10 risk to workers and children in the area, and there is  
11 asbestos risk.

12 The rolling mill soils, there is lead  
13 present that's a risk to workers and children. The  
14 main industrial area, again, cancer risk for utility  
15 workers. There is lead present for workers and  
16 children scenarios. There is asbestos risk.

17 The north area, lead presents a risk to  
18 the construction worker. This is -- this entire slide  
19 is the residential slide, so looking at this, you can  
20 see that there is cancer risk for residents for  
21 arsenic, specific to arsenic at 26 of the 185  
22 properties sampled. These risks are at or exceed the  
23 high end of what Keith was talking about as our

1 acceptable risk range. Again, we only sampled four  
2 percent of the properties. So we realize that there  
3 is, you know, quite a few residential homes around this  
4 area. We sampled approximately 185 homes, so we know  
5 that there is a lot more sampling to be done, but the  
6 point is that when we get these numbers, we're  
7 extrapolating all of that information based upon only  
8 the four percent of homes that we sampled. The  
9 noncancer risks are present for construction workers  
10 and residents for a few different metals, and zinc is  
11 for residents only. There is lead contaminant  
12 concentrations above 400 milligrams per kilogram which  
13 is our cleanup number for the site for lead at about 46  
14 of the 185 properties sampled. We did have lead  
15 exceeding a thousand milligrams per kilogram at only  
16 four properties that we sampled, and the highest was  
17 3200. No samples that we collected to date indicate  
18 any extremely high levels that we would have to call  
19 what's known as our removal program, and our EPA  
20 removal program comes in when you have an imminent or a  
21 substantial danger or threat to an area. So we haven't  
22 found anything that warrants the removal program to  
23 come in.

1                   The ecological risks associated with  
2 operable unit two, there is -- it's low in the north  
3 area. And the north area is -- I've got my pointer up  
4 here. There is a low ecological risk in this northeast  
5 area. This is where we said there was a little  
6 ecological risk, but it's a very viable community up  
7 there ecologically. You've got a lot of trees, oak,  
8 hickory forested area, so doing any kind of remediation  
9 out there would only serve to tear down and take down  
10 all the ecological community, so we-- based upon the  
11 ecological risk assessors, they came to the conclusion  
12 that the habitat is thriving, so it wouldn't serve any  
13 purpose to actually perform any type of invasive  
14 remedial action in that area.

15                   Groundwater. Groundwater at the site  
16 was classified by Illinois EPA as general resource  
17 water class two, which basically means it's nonpotable  
18 water. It cannot be used for drinking water at all.  
19 There are several layers of controls across the city  
20 that prohibit the use of any type of groundwater for  
21 potable uses. It cannot be used for industrial uses or  
22 even irrigation. There is an agreement between the  
23 city and the Illinois EPA that states that the

1 groundwater will never be used at the site. Therefore,  
2 since there is no contact and risk associated with  
3 groundwater, it doesn't present itself to be a risk at  
4 the site. However, we will continue to monitor the  
5 groundwater as part of our remedy, so there will be  
6 monitoring wells installed so that we can continuously  
7 monitor the groundwater to make sure that there isn't a  
8 sudden spike or there isn't any, you know, real jump in  
9 contamination in the groundwater at the site.

10                   So now this part of the presentation is  
11 going into where we're proposing our different cleanup  
12 alternatives for different areas of the site. All the  
13 areas are going to require after they are cleaned up  
14 long-term institutional controls which are basically  
15 long-term restrictions associated with the land at the  
16 site so that whatever cleanup option we have chosen  
17 we'll not have any -- we'll not have interfered with.  
18 So there will be certain deed restrictions, long-term  
19 restrictive covenants, that type of thing, that will go  
20 along with the site.

21                   The first area is the OU1 plant area.  
22 You can see a picture of it. What we're proposing  
23 there is a soil cover over portions of the site that

1 require some type of contaminated soil to be removed.  
2 So there's about 4600 cubic yards of contaminated soil  
3 on site that would be dug up. There would be an  
4 installation of engineered soil cover over the top of  
5 it and then clean compacted fill would be -- that's  
6 what it would consist of and then six inches of gravel  
7 on top of that. This would take about a month to  
8 implement, and the estimated capital costs are about  
9 1.2 million.

10 I should back up a second and let  
11 everybody know, these are -- this is not the only  
12 alternative we evaluated. We have a whole list. I  
13 just couldn't fit it all into a presentation or we'd be  
14 here for three hours. So if you go onto our website,  
15 you can actually find a list of every alternative we've  
16 evaluated and see the different options and see how  
17 they actually weighed out in our feasibility study, and  
18 based upon that is how we come to the conclusion that  
19 this is the preferred choice. So that's for the main  
20 plant area.

21 This is the slag pile, and I like this  
22 picture because you can see here a guy at the bottom  
23 collecting some samples, and this is the slag pile, and

1 it doesn't even reach to the top of the picture. And  
2 it's about ten stories high, and so everything just  
3 kind of sloughs off, you know, down there. Here's an  
4 aerial view of it, and you can see that nothing grows  
5 on that slope because it's unstable and nothing, you  
6 know, can grow there at this point. So what we're  
7 proposing for this is what we call Alternative 15,  
8 which is benching and sloping, so it's a terracing of  
9 that slag pile, and then we would cover it with a  
10 two-foot thick cover, and then we would plant on top of  
11 that to stabilize that cover, and then we would put  
12 best management practices, which basically means maybe  
13 you would have some like swaling at the bottom so that  
14 you have, you know, more habitats, seeding in certain  
15 areas for overgrowth, that type of thing. And, again,  
16 that's going to be about two seasons to implement, and  
17 that will be about \$17 million.

18 For operable unit two, the -- and I'm  
19 going to move forward here. The operable unit two is  
20 this, the entire kind of planting area -- or the entire  
21 smelting area. We are going to be doing -- what we're  
22 proposing is that every alternative relating to  
23 operable unit two would have its contaminated soil

1 brought on site, and where the main plant area is  
2 currently, that would be a consolidated spot where all  
3 of the contaminated soil would go into that  
4 consolidation cell, and then it would be covered with  
5 an engineered cap and then soil on top of that, which  
6 I'll explain a little bit more, but just so you know,  
7 every cleanup option for OU2 consists of putting this  
8 contaminated soil in this area.

9                   So the first one is Building 100. It's  
10 just -- it's one of the few remaining buildings on  
11 site, so we call this area Building 100. There is a  
12 small PCB hot spot associated with this particular  
13 cleanup area, so what we would do is dig up all of the  
14 contaminated soil, about 34,000 cubic yards, place it  
15 in this on-site containment cell, and then the  
16 containment cell would, of course, you know, be taken  
17 care of in another remedy and the excavated area would  
18 be backfilled and be planted upon. This would take  
19 about four months and then about \$3 million to do.

20                   The next remedy for operable unit two is  
21 the rolling mill, and that's basically the structure  
22 standing there now. The rolling mill is an existing  
23 building that wouldn't be taken down. Basically, there



1 is contaminated soil around the rolling mill, so we  
2 would remove that contaminated soil around the rolling  
3 mill, backfill it and plant it. It would take about  
4 three months to implement at a cost of about  
5 \$3,500,000.

6                   The next area is the main industrial  
7 area. This would be where we would put the on-site  
8 containment cell. Here's a couple of good pictures of  
9 what's out there now. You can see this is one of the  
10 old -- I don't know if this is a furnace or an oven  
11 anymore. And this is -- you can see how dilapidated we  
12 call it. It looks like what we envision as Beirut  
13 pictures from back long ago, very, you know, very torn  
14 down, falling apart. This remedy would call for a  
15 demolition of all of the surface structures on site,  
16 and then we would take about 400,000 cubic yards of  
17 contaminated material and we would put it within the  
18 containment cell. About a total of close to a million  
19 cubic yards of contaminated material would be put in  
20 this containment cell. They would transport it from  
21 all the different areas. After consolidation, it would  
22 be -- there would be a two-foot compacted clay layer on  
23 top of that. Then there would be a foot of topsoil,

1 and then it would be vegetated. It would be  
2 constructed at the existing grade right now as it is,  
3 so it would be somewhat of a hill there, obviously,  
4 with a million cubic yards of material. There would  
5 also be stormwater prevention. It would be a lot of  
6 drainage and swales done so that, you know, we wouldn't  
7 have anything impacting the cap, and that would be  
8 maintained and inspected continuously.

9                   Then we have the north area. This area  
10 has -- it's far more vegetated. It's on the northern  
11 portion of the site. This area there is about 170,000  
12 cubic yards of contaminated soil and again we'd bring  
13 that into the containment cell at a cost of about \$15  
14 million. That would take about seven months to  
15 implement.

16                   And, finally, we have the residential  
17 area. This map right now shows the -- every house that  
18 we sampled. So the purple dots represent a location  
19 that's been sampled across the residential area. What  
20 we're proposing to do is, again, we would clean -- we  
21 would sample during our remedial design phase each  
22 house, and then based upon those results we would  
23 either -- we would clean up the houses that exceeded

1 our cleanup levels. We are estimating this would take  
2 about 15 years to do, to clean up all of the houses, at  
3 a cost of well over \$110 million. This material would  
4 be brought on site to the consolidation cell, and our  
5 estimate right now based upon the only four percent  
6 that we've sampled to date is that about 3,000 homes  
7 would require cleanup. That number can significantly  
8 change. We don't -- we don't have enough information  
9 right now to make a decision beyond that.

10                   When we do our remedial investigation,  
11 we basically sample until we have an idea of what the  
12 contaminants are and a general idea of what needs to be  
13 cleaned up. When we do the next phase, the remedial  
14 design phase, that's when we'll do a lot more sampling  
15 to determine each and every house that would need to be  
16 cleaned up. We would envision that based upon -- going  
17 back -- based upon if we were to start this now, we  
18 would probably sample closer to the site and eventually  
19 move away further and further, and as we sample, we  
20 would sample an area, get the results back, and then  
21 clean up an area. And while an area is being cleaned  
22 up, we would be sampling another area. So it would be  
23 kind of, you know, an evolution of sampling and

1 cleanup.

2                   The maximum depth we're proposing is to  
3 be at most 24 inches. You know, that would be the  
4 maximum we would go. It could be less depending on  
5 what results show. It's estimated that about 300,000  
6 cubic yards of material would need to be brought into  
7 the consolidation cell. If there is contamination  
8 deeper than two feet, we would put a visible barrier up  
9 so that you could see where we stopped at the cleanup  
10 level.

11                   This is where I'm going to have Keith  
12 jump in again. This basically shows that our cleanup  
13 of our two main contaminants of concern in the  
14 residential areas are arsenic and lead. Our arsenic  
15 number is 18 milligrams per kilogram. Lead is 400, and  
16 these were calculated based upon safe levels of  
17 exposure.

18                   Yeah, I'll let Keith take over from  
19 here.

20                   MR. FUSINSKI: I forgot to talk about lead  
21 earlier.

22                   All right. So for arsenic, the  
23 background in this area is 11.8 parts per million. We

1 evaluated cancer risk and noncancer risk and all the  
2 hazards from arsenic. We determined a cleanup to 18  
3 parts per million would be within our acceptable risk  
4 range. What this number actually equates to is the  
5 noncancer or hazard index of one, which is an  
6 acceptable range. It's an acceptable number. It  
7 actually means that the number they found in the lab  
8 that won't affect humans is basically the amount that  
9 we're going to clean up a yard to. So -- and that  
10 actually equates to about five in 100,000 which -- or,  
11 yeah, 100,000 which puts you within the recommended or  
12 acceptable cancer risk range.

13                   Lead is different. We don't base lead  
14 on cancer or noncancer. The lead concentration is  
15 based on protecting children from accumulating lead  
16 within their blood. So the lead background is in the  
17 area of 115 parts per million. We can't clean up to a  
18 115 parts per million in every yard because we would  
19 clean up the entire state. So we're going to clean up  
20 to 400 parts per million, which is protective of  
21 children. Our lead concentration in soil is based  
22 on -- I already said that. Among other things, lead  
23 does affect neurological development in children, which

1 is why we want to keep it out of their blood, so 400  
2 milligrams per kilogram is protective.

3           So right now there is no immediate  
4 health risk to the residents. There is no threat to  
5 the local ecology. And this is based on long-term --  
6 the risk is based on long-term exposures.

7           I want to point out something very  
8 important. We keep saying soil contamination in the  
9 yards, the residential yards. We're talking about the  
10 actual soil. If you have a lawn, that lawn becomes a  
11 barrier. It's protective of that soil. So going out  
12 and walking across your yard is not exposing you to the  
13 soil that's underneath the lawn.

14           So how to mitigate risk. We recommend  
15 that when you're out in your yard, when you come in,  
16 take your shoes off before you get in the door. Don't  
17 track the dirt in. That dirt that has the lead on  
18 it -- in it can become dust, and the dust ends up all  
19 over your house. If you are into the soil, gardening  
20 or whatever, letting kids play out in the yard, make  
21 sure they wash their hands, wash your hands before you  
22 start eating anything. If you do have a garden, put it  
23 up on a raised bed. Bring in dirt or compost and raise

1 your garden up off the soil you have now to make it  
2 more protective of you.

3 MS. COLLIER: The other thing I want to mention  
4 is the last time I gave this presentation I was  
5 probably a little more overenthusiastic about telling  
6 people to be protective with their homegrown produce.  
7 So this is why I brought Keith Fusinski and ATSDR.  
8 What I didn't go into explaining is, yes, there is a  
9 risk associated with eating your homegrown food, but  
10 there is ways to have preventative measures to reduce  
11 that risk, which is thoroughly washing your vegetables.  
12 If you have vegetables that are in the ground, carrots,  
13 anything like that, peeling them eliminates a large  
14 part of the risk. So a lot of what you're doing  
15 already by washing your vegetables, that type thing,  
16 you're eliminating the risk. So it's just more of  
17 your -- you know, keeping it safer. So there still is  
18 a risk associated with this, but you're reducing the  
19 risk by simply even just washing your vegetables. So I  
20 just wanted to reiterate that, restate it in a more  
21 clear, concise way.

22 All right. This slide shows what a  
23 residential cleanup would look like, a before and

1 after. This was a particular neighborhood in southeast  
2 Minneapolis. What we try and do for these cleanups is  
3 we go with each homeowner yard by yard, and you get  
4 individual attention about what -- you know, what you  
5 have in your yard. So if you have certain areas that  
6 require remediation in your yard, it doesn't mean your  
7 entire yard might be dug up. It could be a portion.  
8 It could be a couple of inches, could be a couple feet.  
9 If you have certain bushes or plants or trees, you  
10 could go along with the person that's out there and  
11 they'll say do you want to keep this? Yes, I want to  
12 keep this. Or, you know, I don't like that bush  
13 anyway, go ahead and get rid of it. So this just shows  
14 a before and after picture in southeast Minneapolis,  
15 and then an even better picture is Velsicol Chemical  
16 Corporation in Michigan which is, again, a before and  
17 after. And after they decide that your yard needs to  
18 be cleaned up, they would, you know, take out the  
19 contaminated soil. They would backfill it. They would  
20 put sod down, and then they would -- you know, then  
21 your yard would be watered. Things might be replanted.  
22 You know, our job is to try and leave it as good as you  
23 had it before we come out to do the actual remediation.



1                   And I never carry business cards, so if  
2 anybody wants my information, here it is. I apologize,  
3 I'm terrible at it. So, again, you know, I've had a  
4 lot of e-mails and calls from residents after the last  
5 public meeting or people who heard word from friends,  
6 and I encourage anybody to e-mail me or call me  
7 specifically with any like questions, concerns,  
8 clarifications, anything you want. I'm pretty  
9 accessible. I know Keith is very, you know, accessible  
10 if you have any health concerns or questions. So  
11 please feel free anytime to reach out with an e-mail or  
12 a phone call. It's that easy to answer it for you, and  
13 truly we are here as your -- you know, your liaison to  
14 the EPA to try and get any public concerns or comments  
15 addressed. So, again, here's our information. I'm  
16 going to leave it up there, and I'm going to now pass  
17 it over to Teresa.

18                   And, again, we're going to limit any  
19 questions for just about ten minutes or so before we go  
20 into the official public comment period. When  
21 everybody goes through their questions, if you have a  
22 question or a comment, please state your name clearly  
23 because this is being recorded for public comment and

1 to be put onto our website. So I'm going to hand this  
2 back to Teresa now and sit and wait. Oh, and we have  
3 the microphone.

4 MS. JONES: Okay. For the ten-minute Q and A  
5 I'm going to bring the mic around, so if anyone has a  
6 question in regards to the presentation, would you  
7 raise your hand and I'll bring the microphone.

8 MS. GEARHART: I was just hoping you would go  
9 back to the slide and explain the metals in the OU2  
10 portion, specifically the lead and the arsenic and the  
11 risks for each category for the residents, the workers  
12 and so forth. Do you know which slide I'm talking  
13 about?

14 MS. COLLIER: Yes. And what is your name  
15 again?

16 MS. GEARHART: Alissa Gearhart.

17 MS. COLLIER: So the one that shows the risk  
18 for each -- I gotcha. No, that's the cleanup.

19 MS. GEARHART: That's the one.

20 MS. COLLIER: That's the one.

21 MS. GEARHART: If you could just go through  
22 that with us one more time explaining.

23 MS. COLLIER: Sure, gladly. So the off-site

1 residential area related specifically to soils, we did  
2 find that there are contaminants that do have a cancer  
3 risk associated with them. For arsenic specifically we  
4 found at 26 of the 185 properties that we sampled.  
5 These risks exceeded what we consider the high end of  
6 our risk range. So where Keith was saying the one in  
7 10,00, this is the greater than one in 10,000.

8 MR. FUSINSKI: It's in the red part.

9 MS. COLLIER: It's in the red part. So this is  
10 where we say there is a risk associated with arsenic in  
11 your soil that would need to be remediated because it's  
12 a risk. You know, it's not acceptable from EPA  
13 perspectives. Our noncancer risks which are, you know,  
14 for the noncancer portion of what Keith was explaining,  
15 we do have that for a construction worker scenario for  
16 anemone, arsenic, cadmium, magnesium. We have zinc for  
17 residents situation, so anybody that, you know, falls  
18 within that category, that is an unacceptable risk. We  
19 did find lead concentrations that exceed 400, which is  
20 our cleanup level, at 46 of the 185 properties. So  
21 when you look at that number, you know, it's 46 out of  
22 185, that means that those houses are outside of our  
23 acceptable risk range. Those would need to be

1 remediated. We did find lead at a few residences that  
2 exceeded 1,000, and then our highest that we found so  
3 far was 3200.

4 Finally, the last portion is we didn't  
5 find anything that would warrant extreme, the removal  
6 program to need to come out and take care of that.

7 Does that answer your question enough?

8 MS. GEARHART: Yes, it does.

9 MS. COLLIER: Okay.

10 MR. PRATT: The consolidation area, where is  
11 that located?

12 MS. COLLIER: So the consolidation area -- can  
13 I get your name, too?

14 MR. PRATT: Gary Pratt (phonetic).

15 MS. COLLIER: So the consolidation area would  
16 be where the former smelter operations are right now,  
17 so this entire area. And, again, we don't know the  
18 extent of the cell yet. We have to wait until we get  
19 all of the contaminated soil, but this is where we  
20 would propose it is, within where the main industrial  
21 area is there, where the former smelting operations  
22 took place.

23 MR. PRATT: So basically anything like, say, my

1 yard, they dig up my yard, they are going to put it  
2 there.

3 MS. COLLIER: Yes, we would be bringing it in  
4 and we'd put it in the on-site consolidation, which is  
5 basically a landfill of soil. Yeah, exactly.

6 MR. PRATT: Contaminated soil.

7 MS. COLLIER: Contaminated soil, exactly.

8 MR. PRATT: Okay. I'm curious, when say you  
9 find several around the whole area, several houses that  
10 need to be -- a section here, a section there, there,  
11 there, there or whatever, by disturbing it, as Keith  
12 had mentioned about getting things into the air, isn't  
13 that basically the same thing, digging it up?

14 MS. COLLIER: What we would be doing --

15 MR. PRATT: Are we putting the dust back into  
16 the air?

17 MS. COLLIER: No. We have management practices  
18 that we use whenever they do any type of soil work at  
19 all, at any kind of site, especially a residential  
20 site. I promise you that. So they use a lot of  
21 watering, so they are continuously watering down so  
22 that there is no dust, and we have air monitors on  
23 site, so we're monitoring to make sure that there is

1 no -- that no contamination is being taken off on the  
2 dust that would be going into your house or anywhere  
3 like that.

4 MR. PRATT: Right. Okay.

5 MR. MCPHEDRAN: Yes, Jim McPhedran. I would  
6 like to know, first of all, will there be an  
7 opportunity for written comments following the meeting  
8 for people to digest what you've thrown out here and  
9 presented?

10 MS. COLLIER: Absolutely. We have sheets out  
11 in the back where you can write your comments and  
12 submit them. You also have the opportunity to put --  
13 you can do it online if you'd like to go home and think  
14 about it. December 12th is the last day we will take  
15 any official comments for the site. So, yes,  
16 definitely reach out if you have a comment either by  
17 paper form that you can hand to Teresa at the end of  
18 the night or by e-mail or by our online website.

19 MR. MCPHEDRAN: You're suggesting December 12th  
20 is the deadline for comments for this project that  
21 you've been working on for how many years?

22 MS. COLLIER: Our public comment periods  
23 typically run 30 days. This one is going I think about

1 62, 63 days.

2 MR. MCPHEDRAN: You worked on this from what I  
3 hear from some of the people who were part of the  
4 October meeting, a lot of this testing was done over  
5 eight years ago?

6 MS. COLLIER: Yeah, we started our remedial  
7 investigation I want to say back in 2008. Does that  
8 sound about right? 2008. And so we have been  
9 collecting samples. The thing is when you collect the  
10 samples you have to date them, but then you need to be  
11 able to interpret the data. So then you have a risk  
12 assessment that you do based upon that data. The risk  
13 assessment then determines what's safe, what's  
14 acceptable and what's not. So this is where we got it  
15 to the point -- you do your investigation. Then you  
16 have to do a risk assessment. Then you have to look at  
17 the various cleanup options, and then we present what  
18 our preferred option is to you tonight.

19 MR. MCPHEDRAN: Is the plan -- it's hard to  
20 tell from some of what you said, at least for me --  
21 that all of these residential areas would be considered  
22 part of a Superfund site then?

23 MS. COLLIER: They are not necessarily. It

1 depends on the property. We have only sampled four  
2 percent of the properties.

3 MR. MCPHEDRAN: That's the concern is why paint  
4 the entire area with such a broad brush if there's only  
5 four percent sampled and you only have 26 out of 185 in  
6 the area. It's hard to tell from what you said whether  
7 they are all sampled or most of them that you sample  
8 close to the area or what the percentage is close to  
9 the factory as opposed to the things that are further  
10 away. And we're concerned about property values, as  
11 I'm sure you understand.

12 MS. COLLIER: Absolutely. Yes. So what we do  
13 is, you know, for the investigation, like I said, your  
14 only -- your main focus is to find your contaminants of  
15 concern and what your cleanup levels are, and for a  
16 site as big as this you have to start somewhere with  
17 your actual design. So what we're proposing is that we  
18 start the design as soon as we can, which I'm hoping  
19 will be next -- 2016. What we would do is sample  
20 yards. We'd clean up the yards that needed to be  
21 cleaned up. As those yards are being cleaned up, we  
22 would do next phase, sample of the next phase of yards,  
23 you know, and you have to kind of wait for winter and



1 go along with the seasons, but it would be a continuous  
2 moving forward.

3 I understand people's property values,  
4 you know, as a homeowner myself. We just don't -- we  
5 don't know enough to say, yes, your yard is clean, or  
6 no, your yard is not clean yet, so we're waiting until  
7 we can sample each yard to say. A Superfund site is  
8 designated because of what's on site, and our Superfund  
9 site here does include a residential component because  
10 there is a risk associated with people's yards that  
11 needs to be dealt with. It's a risk that's  
12 unacceptable for, you know, people to be there.

13 MR. MCPHEDRAN: Certainly risk should be  
14 addressed, but you indicated what made it a Superfund  
15 site is the slag use, so why not designate that and  
16 make that your Superfund site and wait until you do the  
17 sampling and the testing before you point the  
18 perception among certain members of the public that all  
19 of the residences in these areas may be contaminated  
20 when, as you said, you don't know.

21 MS. COLLIER: So the Superfund site -- and let  
22 me go to a good picture of this. I'll go back with  
23 you. I'll show you what's designated as the Superfund

1 site.

2                   So if you look at this and you look at  
3 the red line, it's a little hard to see, that is what  
4 is the Superfund site.

5           MR. MCPHEDRAN: That does not include the  
6 residences.

7           MS. COLLIER: The residential community is  
8 almost more of an operable unit in and of itself. It  
9 comes along with the Superfund site, but it's not --  
10 when you look at the listing, the actual NPL listing,  
11 it is specific as to what that calls the Superfund  
12 site. So you wouldn't say my house is a Superfund  
13 site. Your house has contamination associated with the  
14 Superfund site, if that makes it any clearer. However,  
15 I understand if you are trying to sell your house and  
16 you don't know what your property or what your yard  
17 might have in it, it's a question mark. And once you  
18 do know what your yard has in it, that has to be  
19 disclosed. So it's an understandable concern of the  
20 community to have those feelings associated with, well,  
21 what is my property value going to be in relation to  
22 this.

23           MR. MCPHEDRAN: Another question.

1 MS. JONES: Excuse me, sir.

2 MR. McPHEDRAN: The city -- (inaudible).

3 MS. COLLIER: The city?

4 MR. McPHEDRAN: Yes.

5 MS. COLLIER: The city was not a former  
6 owner/operator.

7 MR. McPHEDRAN: Thank you.

8 MS. JONES: Okay. We're going to move on with  
9 Q and A, and we're going to take two more questions.

10 MS. SIENKIEWICZ: Robin Sienkiewicz. Probably  
11 24, 25 years ago my home was involved in PCB cleanup,  
12 and I was about six blocks south of there, and it went  
13 all the way south to the junior high and Hegeler Park.  
14 Now, they did all their big deep cleanup everywhere,  
15 and they did down by the park and they did the junior  
16 high area, and by the time it got to where my front  
17 yard needed to be done there was no more money, and all  
18 of a sudden my -- my bad land wasn't bad anymore  
19 because it didn't need to be done. So how is this  
20 going to affect if that picture with all those homes  
21 scattered all over that you have tested -- I mean this  
22 is a multiple-million-dollar project. If most of it is  
23 not going to cause any cancer, by your levels aren't

1 high enough to be causing a problem unless we live in  
2 our house constantly, why is it just the area where the  
3 rolling mills and the slag pile and all that Carus  
4 land -- why isn't that the only part that they have to  
5 worry about and maybe that house with the really high  
6 level lead or whatever it was? I just don't understand  
7 where my land all of a sudden wasn't dirty enough, and  
8 what's going to happen to these other homes after five  
9 years to finish this project?

10 MS. COLLIER: I am -- I am vaguely familiar  
11 with the other project. I was not the project manager  
12 on it, but I've heard enough. You know, you hear here  
13 and there about it. What I can tell you from the  
14 perspective of me as the project manager of the M&H  
15 site, you know, depending -- what happens after we sign  
16 a record of decision where we're getting down to a  
17 little more of the minute details is attorneys then  
18 negotiate with current or past owners, operators,  
19 generators at the site and determine, you know, ability  
20 to pay for whatever, all depending on the site, you  
21 know, whatever it is. This is obviously a very  
22 expensive cleanup. We have -- when we sign our record  
23 of decision and it says our numbers in there for what

1 we're going to clean up on, and it will say  
2 specifically this is our arsenic cleanup number 18,  
3 this is our lead cleanup number 400. This is cadmium  
4 whatever, zinc whatever that cleanup number is. That  
5 is, in fact, almost like a law then for the site. The  
6 only way to change that cleanup number is to amend the  
7 decision document and change that cleanup number, which  
8 does happen, and it can go down and it can go up  
9 depending on, you know, what happens.

10                   What we are here to do is we know we  
11 need to sample these yards as we move away from the M&H  
12 site and see which are contaminated and which are not.  
13 They do present a risk. There is an unacceptable risk.  
14 You know, I know we're very conservative, but that  
15 is -- you know, we as people, you know, working on this  
16 site have to address any risk that's associated with  
17 the site, which in this case goes into the residential  
18 yards. So we have to address that risk. We need to  
19 eliminate that risk so that it is acceptable, so that  
20 there is no threat to human health and the environment,  
21 kids, you know, in some cases ecological community.

22                   We can't ignore a house because we ran  
23 out of money. Eventually, money will need to be found

1 to clean up that house. Again, I'm not sure in the  
2 case of yours, but there are times where you have to  
3 wait for funding to clean up money -- or to clean up  
4 sites depending on how much money and who's paying for  
5 it. So, I mean, it does happen, but when you have a  
6 record of decision that states what you're going to do,  
7 and ours -- you know, we're proposing to clean up the  
8 residential community and any houses that were  
9 contaminated by M&H above unacceptable levels, that's  
10 what we have to do. So whether it's -- you know,  
11 it's -- if it's unacceptable risk, we have to address  
12 that.

13 MR. GEARHART: Gary Gearhart. In follow-up to  
14 Jim McPhedran's questions concerning the residential  
15 properties in LaSalle, I see the figures point out that  
16 you're going to have 3,000 to 5,000 affected areas to  
17 be tested. Do you intend to test every residence in  
18 the city of LaSalle?

19 MS. COLLIER: What we will do is then -- I need  
20 to find my map again, just go through my maps. It's  
21 coming. There it is.

22 So what we're going to do -- and in our  
23 investigation report that we found, there is more

1 detailed information about what was found at each of  
2 these houses sampled. So let's say this house here, X,  
3 had no contamination. This house over here had arsenic  
4 and lead. This house over here just had zinc. What we  
5 would do is we would start by sampling closest to the  
6 site and then getting those results and then moving  
7 out. We don't know how far west this is necessarily  
8 going to extend. That is going to be determined by our  
9 sampling. So when we -- if we start to see an area  
10 where we're getting a lot of soil that doesn't reach  
11 what we need to see that needs to be cleaned up, it's  
12 not above our cleanup levels, then you can start to say  
13 that you -- that you're outside of the zone that  
14 requires cleanup. But, again, we're not going to know  
15 how far out, which house, how far south until we start  
16 sampling houses, and as we do that, we will get  
17 results. We'll let the homeowner know the results, and  
18 we'll move continuously outward as we -- as we gather  
19 information. So it's a lot of information gathering  
20 yet to be done.

21 MR. GEARHART: So the 3,000 to 5,000 residents,  
22 that's your projection for the city of LaSalle?

23 MS. COLLIER: That is the projection. It's

1 based upon the four percent we sampled, and it's  
2 basically extrapolating that data. It could go up. It  
3 could go down. We just won't know until we start going  
4 more sampling. But we need to start sampling more --  
5 closer to the site and every home so we can actually  
6 start the cleanup process. We've got to start the  
7 cleanup process at some point before we sample every  
8 home.

9 MR. GEARHART: And if you found levels of the  
10 lead or arsenic on Chartres Street in LaSalle, you then  
11 go into Peru. Is there some definite boundary you're  
12 going by?

13 MS. COLLIER: There is no definite boundary at  
14 this point. It will be when the contamination peters  
15 out.

16 One thing I want to let everybody know,  
17 and then we've got some questions yet. One thing that  
18 we are proposing for people that we would like to talk  
19 about and look into in the spring is what we call a  
20 soil shop, and basically what this is, is if you have a  
21 garden -- and it's going to be specific to gardens --  
22 and you want to grow your vegetables in your garden,  
23 but you're unsure what your garden is now, we would



1 like to set up some type of soil shop where you could  
2 actually bring in a soil sample from your garden, we  
3 would do a quick test on it then and there, and you  
4 would know what -- a real quick screening level. It  
5 wouldn't designate your cleanup, but it would be just  
6 specific to growing vegetables in a garden so you could  
7 know what your garden has in it. If you would want to  
8 raise your garden or, you know, make a brand new garden  
9 or whatever it would be. I wanted to throw that out  
10 there before I forgot, just FYI.

11 MS. JONES: Okay. Due to time constraints,  
12 we're going to have to move into the official comment  
13 period, and we have several people that have signed up.  
14 And for those of you that still wish to make a comment,  
15 you can hand us those comments personally. We do have  
16 a comment form. You also can send your comments in an  
17 e-mail, you know, to either Demaree or myself. And you  
18 have until December 12th, which is this Saturday, to  
19 get those comments in.

20 So to those making comments, you can  
21 state your comment in the form of a question. So right  
22 now we have 14 people that have signed up, and there is  
23 one comment or one question per number, so those people

1 who have numbers who are making comments. And if time  
2 permits, we will accept other comments, and then I want  
3 to wrap up the comment period. If time permits, we  
4 will allow time for all of you to ask questions of the  
5 team members, but we must leave the building by 10:00  
6 p.m., and it's 8:00 now.

7                   So we are going to open up the floor  
8 here and ask that -- numbers one, two, three, I'd ask  
9 if they could come forward so that they can make their  
10 official comment for the record. And also I'd ask that  
11 you state your name and spell your first and last name  
12 for the court reporter for the official record. Thank  
13 you.

14                   So I believe number one is Tim Shinnick.  
15 Are you still here?

16                   MR. SHINNICK: Yeah, but I don't have a  
17 comment.

18                   MS. JONES: Also, one other thing. We will not  
19 respond to the comments tonight. Your comments will --  
20 you will receive a summary of the comments once the  
21 final decision is made. So the answers will be  
22 summarized with the official record of decision.

23                   Okay. I'm waiting for number one, Tom

1 Shinnick. Are you still here? If not, number two,  
2 James Demes. Would you come forward, please, and state  
3 your comment.

4 MR. DEMES: I'm James Demes. I would like to  
5 know what was the farthest north, farthest south,  
6 farthest east and west as far as addresses or  
7 boundaries or streets so we kind of have an idea about  
8 what your range was. And then referring back to Gary  
9 Gearhart's question, are you going to sample every  
10 property?

11 MS. JONES: Okay. Thank you, sir, for your  
12 comment.

13 Number three, Tom Walsh, are you still  
14 here? Please come forward.

15 MR. WALSH: I would just like to add for the  
16 record as your previous cleanup --

17 MS. JONES: Excuse me, can you spell your first  
18 and last name for the record?

19 MR. WALSH: Tom, T-O-M, Walsh, W-A-L-S-H.

20 And my concern was about the previous  
21 cleanup of the PCBs with the electric utilities company  
22 which was done a number of years ago, and as the one  
23 lady mentioned earlier, that her property was never

1 completed. Will there be an attempt to do any  
2 follow-up on that particular process or is that going  
3 to be dropped from this program as far as the cleanup  
4 for the arsenic and the lead, so forth? Thank you.

5 MS. JONES: Thank you.

6 Next we have Mike Furlan, I believe.  
7 Are you still here? Are you still present?

8 MR. FURLAN: My name is Mike Furlan, spelled  
9 F-U-R-L-A-N. I just had a question on the -- when the  
10 property is being excavated, any of the property  
11 boundary corners that are dug up, will there be a  
12 professional survey on staff with the contractor to put  
13 the property boundaries back in?

14 MS. JONES: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. WALSH: That was my question.

16 MS. JONES: Thank you.

17 Next, number five, Alissa Gearhart.

18 MS. GEARHART: Do you need me to spell my name?  
19 A-L-I-S-S-A, Gearhart, G-E-A-R-H-A-R-T. I don't like  
20 to have my back to a room, so I'm going to turn around  
21 so you can all hear me. I don't know if this is going  
22 to be in the form of a question because my  
23 understanding is that we can make a counterproposal.

1 You're going to make a proposal, we can make a  
2 counterproposal. We're citizens of LaSalle, so I think  
3 that's probably what we're going to do.

4                   It's my understanding, as you said here,  
5 that the residents do not face any immediate health  
6 risk at this time just going about their lives in their  
7 homes. So we have time to disseminate information to  
8 each and every property owner as to what levels are in  
9 your yard in what concentrations, and we need that  
10 information before we can make a good decision, but  
11 you're asking us to proceed without that information to  
12 get to a decision which you describe as having the  
13 force of law so that we can actually go into an  
14 investigative period and find out what we need to know.  
15 That's what we call backwards. That's what we call  
16 cart before the horse. That's ready, fire, aim.  
17 That's wrong. That's not the way you do it. We get  
18 the information. We act on the information  
19 intelligently. We answer the questions of Mark Furlan,  
20 our engineer, who wants to know if we're going to have  
21 those boundary corners put back or if we're all going  
22 to have to go get our own surveys and deal with that.  
23 We want to know the process by which our yards will be

1 dug up. We want to know how the testing is going to be  
2 conducted when. We want to know how the money is going  
3 to be spent. We're not getting something for nothing.  
4 We need to do this right. We're taxpayers. We  
5 understand how this works, and we want you to do this  
6 responsibly for all the areas to be cleaned up where  
7 cleanup is needed, but I think we all feel or at least  
8 I feel very strongly that the people with the worst  
9 problem needs to be addressed first. Not by moving,  
10 doing a test, moving over, starting somewhere, then  
11 doing another test, moving to that direction. Test us  
12 all. Find out who's got the worst problem. Help them  
13 first.

14 Don't pin us down to a remedy when we  
15 don't know how bad the problem is. I don't want to  
16 tell -- as an attorney, I don't want to tell my  
17 friends, my neighbors that they are stuck with a  
18 two-foot soil swap situation when they've got a problem  
19 that's so much worse that they deserve another remedy  
20 to be considered to help them, to help their families,  
21 to not expose their children to dangerous levels. I  
22 also don't want a situation where just the people in  
23 the city of LaSalle are forced into a situation where

1 you have a homeowner who is told, hey, your ground is  
2 dirty, and then she's told it's not dirty enough,  
3 sorry, we don't have the money. The fact is there  
4 isn't money in the couch cushion in Washington, DC,  
5 anymore. We know that. So we have got to do this  
6 right. Get it done once, do it right, and we ask and I  
7 propose that you test now, give us a written decision  
8 of what's in our yards, give it to the occupant of the  
9 house, the owner of the house, and then have the  
10 dialogue with us. Then you come back to us and let us  
11 discuss with you what comes next. Put the cart after  
12 the horse. Thank you.

13 MS. JONES: Okay. Number six, that is Len  
14 Yurek (phonetic). Are you still here?

15 MR. YUREK: No comment.

16 MS. JONES: No comment, okay. Thank you.

17 We're going to move on to number seven,  
18 excuse me. David Volpe?

19 MR. VOLPE: Yes.

20 MS. JONES: Thank you. Please come forward.  
21 Please state and spell your name.

22 MR. VOLPE: David Volpe, D-A-V-I-D, V-O-L-P-E.  
23 I live directly across the street from OU2, and there

1 is -- there used to be railroad tracks through the  
2 property with rail tank cars. I would like to know  
3 what was in the cars, what was done, other  
4 contaminants. We heard about lead and arsenic. I  
5 would like to know what else is over there. You know,  
6 where did the rail cars go, what was in them, and  
7 generally what else is there besides lead and arsenic.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. JONES: Thank you.

10 All right. Number eight, Joanne  
11 Donovan, are you still here? Are you still present?

12 MS. DONOVAN: I'm here. They touched base on  
13 everything.

14 MS. JONES: Okay. So you're fine?

15 MS. DONOVAN: Yeah.

16 MS. JONES: Okay. Thank you.

17 Number nine, Jim -- I can't make out the  
18 last name.

19 MR. MCPHEDRAN: McPhedran.

20 MS. JONES: Okay. Would you still like to come  
21 forward?

22 MR. MCPHEDRAN: Sure. For the record, Jim  
23 McPhedran, M-c-P-H-E-D-R-A-N. Certain of my comments



1 at this time were addressed in the question portion,  
2 and the point that we have an opportunity to provide  
3 further comment at a later time, I'll reserve the right  
4 to do that. Respect the point that the EPA needs to be  
5 sensitive to any unacceptable risk and hope that -- you  
6 seem to be and hope that you will be, and I have  
7 concerns about the present plan as to whether it is  
8 sensitive enough to the point of not painting too broad  
9 of a brush with the concern of perception governing  
10 over reality in many people's minds in today's life.  
11 But we'll reserve the right to make further comments at  
12 a later point. I appreciate the opportunity to be  
13 here.

14 MS. JONES: Thank you.

15 Next, person number 10, Mike Kasap.

16 MR. KASAP: I was told by our state's attorney  
17 to keep it under an hour. Mike Kasap, K-A-S-A-P.

18 The concern that I have in looking at  
19 the map, particularly since the study has been done, I  
20 would hope that you would future send out information  
21 to the property owners that have already been sampled  
22 so that it would give us a warm and fuzzy in our  
23 community, because there's a lot of undecisions and --

1 as we have already heard in our comment section, if  
2 that would be a possibility to send that information  
3 out to the property owners for the properties that have  
4 been sampled. Thank you very much.

5 MS. JONES: Thank you for your comment.

6 Next, number 11, Lisa Wachowski  
7 (phonetic). I butchered your last name. Are you still  
8 present?

9 MS. WACHOWIAK: Yes.

10 MS. JONES: Thank you. Come forward.

11 MS. WACHOWIAK: My name is Lisa Wachowiak,  
12 W-A-C-H-O-W-I-A-K. I live at 1200 block of La Harpe  
13 Street. I lost my father-in-law who worked at Carus to  
14 cancer probably about 17 years ago. My husband used to  
15 work at Carus Chemical, so I'm very concerned. I just  
16 spent almost \$10,000 on a dog that had cancer from  
17 pesticides, and now I'm wondering if this is what she  
18 died from, so it really is concerning.

19 I'm also wanting to know if my home is  
20 one of the ones that are affected. I think that's a  
21 given that we should be told, and I think the biggest  
22 portion is where the bad area is. I agree with that,  
23 that it should be taken care of first, and no one

1 should be left without being taken care of.

2 That's it for me. Sorry, I was nervous.

3 MS. JONES: Thank you so much. Thank you so  
4 much.

5 Okay. Next person, number 12, John  
6 Lavieri.

7 DR. LAVIERI: Dr. Lavieri, alderman and on the  
8 park board. You talked residents --

9 MS. JONES: Excuse me, would you spell your  
10 name?

11 DR. LAVIERI: L-A-V-I-E-R-I.

12 You talked about residents. You didn't  
13 talk about we've got a park right across the street  
14 there, and we've got other park land, school yards,  
15 community gardens, pet runs and everything, but you're  
16 talking probably -- there is probably 3,000 LaSalle  
17 residents there, so you're also talking half of Peru  
18 when you throw in 5,000, and you're going to freeze  
19 properties if you don't give someone -- check them  
20 right away and give them a certificate that their yard  
21 is okay or not okay, you know, so they can sell their  
22 house, you know, so they can get a mortgage, so they  
23 don't suddenly become under water in a mortgage because

1 their property value dropped because the financial  
2 institution's knowing this. And you're painting with a  
3 broad brush, so I agree with Alissa, you have to sample  
4 everything, tell us what's what and then come back with  
5 your remediation plan. Because you can't just paint  
6 the whole thing like this. Just what happened in south  
7 Minneapolis, I don't -- you know, maybe you have  
8 statistics from what happened there with property  
9 values.

10                   And I think you said you wouldn't dig up  
11 someone's special bushes and special trees, but then  
12 does that mean you wouldn't certify the property clean  
13 because you weren't able to do those areas? We have  
14 city workers out there digging up on the right-of-ways  
15 all the time and water breaks and things like that.  
16 What's their risk out there? You know, do they need  
17 protective suits, or is this just overblown? So you  
18 really need to know what's going on ahead of time  
19 before you just start working inching your way around.  
20 If someone wants to sell a house three miles from where  
21 you start, then like I talked to you earlier, Demaree,  
22 you're going to have to stop and go for -- or send  
23 someone, go clean up their yard or certify it clean so

1 they can sell their property. You know, they don't  
2 have time to wait 15, 20 years for you to get to them.

3           You still have pets going out in all  
4 these yards and tracking soil back in, and then of  
5 course they dig and tracking soil back into the houses  
6 or whatever. You are telling everyone to take off  
7 their shoes. Very few people are going to get that  
8 message if it's that important.

9           I've got more comments, but they will be  
10 in writing.

11           MS. JONES: Thank you.

12           Number 13, Brian Towne.

13           MR. TOWNE: Good evening. My name is Brian  
14 Town, T-O-W-N-E. I am not only the LaSalle County  
15 State's Attorney, but I'm also a LaSalle resident.  
16 First and foremost, I want to say that I have the honor  
17 and often the responsibility to speak on behalf of the  
18 people of LaSalle County, and it's my responsibility to  
19 ensure their safety, and while that ordinarily  
20 transcends to individual defendants with specific  
21 victims, in this particular case it would seem to me  
22 that arsenic and lead can do more devastation than  
23 virtually any criminal I've ever encountered in my 23

1 years.

2                   My question or my comment or my concern  
3 first and foremost is to stand by my friend and  
4 neighbor, Alissa Gearhart, and all of her comments that  
5 were already made, Dr. Lavieri and the other members  
6 that have already spoken, but in addition to that my  
7 concerns and comments stretch towards the fact that  
8 from what I've heard tonight and what I already  
9 reviewed for the documents that I have it was suggested  
10 that there are six options for us and that the  
11 determination, the opportunity for us to speak is only  
12 open until December the 12th.

13                   I'm concerned that we have already  
14 limited to six options, one of those options by the way  
15 being no action, when we have only tested just the tip  
16 of the iceberg to our neighborhoods and our community.  
17 We have by my calculations -- which are rudimentary and  
18 perhaps wrong, but I think they are right or close --  
19 arsenic looks like there is 15 percent in the 185 areas  
20 that were tested. 25 percent when it comes to lead.  
21 And so if -- with only four percent of the area tested  
22 at this point in time, how can we limit it to six  
23 options, one being no action taken?

1                   And what I would also like to know is  
2 the second part of my question, because we lawyers ask  
3 compound questions, is when it comes to these other  
4 options, I noticed in the appendix that none of the  
5 options have a price tag on them. I would like to know  
6 which option is the most expensive, which is the least  
7 expensive, and if the cost/benefit analysis is part of  
8 what made option six the most entertaining or  
9 appropriate option for the group at this time.

10                   Thank you.

11                   MS. JONES: Thank you.

12                   Okay. Number 14, Chris Covert, are you  
13 still here?

14                   MR. COVERT: Thank you. Chris Covert,  
15 C-H-R-I-S, C-O-V-E-R-T. My primary concern is worker  
16 protection to reiterate what Dr. Lavieri had mentioned.  
17 Are there protocols for this level of exposure to the  
18 city workers, to construction workers? You're only  
19 going two feet down, but our frost line is at 40  
20 inches, so is there a protocol for how to address that  
21 situation? If we're digging out a foundation for a  
22 house in a highly contaminated area, should we take  
23 that -- that soil that may or may not be contaminated

1 since you're only testing I'm assuming down to two  
2 feet, or if you're going farther than that, then, you  
3 know, how deep is the contamination, at what level is  
4 the contamination, and is that -- is that soil to be  
5 transferred over to the -- to the zone where you're  
6 incapsulating everything? Is there going to be funds  
7 available for development to take care of that?

8                   That's my question. How -- how does  
9 construction begin? If you miss a spot, there's areas  
10 in downtown that may or may not be contaminated, and do  
11 you take off -- I don't know if you're going to be  
12 drilling through concrete sidewalks to see if there is  
13 contamination underneath that, because a hundred years  
14 ago there wasn't concrete there. So what's the plan  
15 for areas that -- are you testing everywhere? And if  
16 you guys disappear and go away and we find out you've  
17 got another hot spot that wasn't found out, is there  
18 going to be money in escrow to assist those properties  
19 also?

20                   Thank you.

21                   MS. JONES: Thank you, sir, for your comment.

22                   Okay. Are there any others that would  
23 like to make an official comment for the record? Yes,



1 please come forward.

2 MS. LESTER: Bonnie Lester, B-O-N-N-I-E,  
3 L-E-S-T-E-R. I'm a local realtor here in the Illinois  
4 Valley area. I also have investments in LaSalle. I  
5 own rental property there, and I have a daughter and  
6 grandchildren that reside in LaSalle, so I am concerned  
7 about all of this.

8 My comment tonight has to do with  
9 sellers and buyers. I'm curious as to what we as  
10 realtors have as a liability to disclosure for any  
11 homes that we may be handling now and in the future in  
12 LaSalle. I don't know if you come across any of this  
13 in any of the other towns, but I am very concerned with  
14 that, and it will affect all of our buyers and sellers  
15 in the town of LaSalle.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SIENKIEWICZ: Robin Sienkiewicz,  
18 S-I-E-N-K-I-E-W-I-C-Z. I have two points. One is my  
19 brother-in-law and his brothers and mother lived in the  
20 housing for their whole growing up years. That was at  
21 901 Grant. That's on the northern end there kind of by  
22 O'Connor. And they more or less lived their summers  
23 down by the Vermilion River, all of the river there

1 that was the woods, et cetera, and did hunting and  
2 fishing and just playing and swimming. And my  
3 brother-in-law does have MS. Now, there is no family  
4 history of MS. There is nothing else. God knows if  
5 anybody else is going to have it of the three brothers,  
6 I don't know, but he does have that. There is a large  
7 instance of MS in this area. There is a large instance  
8 of cancer. And my question is, could any of that be  
9 caused from this area?

10 My second part, now that I've done the  
11 first one -- I'm forgetting -- oh, if this is  
12 considered a Superfund, then I'm assuming that that is  
13 the government that's paying for it, which is really  
14 us. My question is, if the area that is the M&H zinc  
15 company site is contaminated, has been contaminated for  
16 20, 30, 40 years, whatever, how much of this is going  
17 to be covered by the company and the family that owned  
18 this at the time and financially helps with the cleanup  
19 of all of this? And that's my question.

20 MS. JONES: Thank you.

21 Any others that would like to make an  
22 official comment for the record?

23 Okay. If there aren't any other -- oh,

1 you would like to make an official -- please come  
2 forward.

3 MS. MIGLIO: Hi. Cindy Miglio, M-I-G-L-I-O.  
4 She asked several of the questions I had been concerned  
5 about, but I would like to know how high does the lead  
6 and arsenic level need to be before you do take  
7 immediate action since there is 50 out of the 185  
8 that's already above the level?

9 And as far as the cancer part of it, I  
10 agree with her, MS and cancer is high here, and there  
11 is also a specific cancer, it's call melanoma tumor,  
12 it's behind the eye. Cleveland Clinic says it's one in  
13 a million. I know of two people, and Dr. Pode knows of  
14 seven, and my dad was one of them that died of cancer  
15 from it. And he also worked at M&H for 32 years.

16 MS. JONES: Thank you for your comment.

17 Are there any others at this time that  
18 would like to make a comment for the record?

19 Okay. If there aren't any others, we're  
20 closing the comment period at this time, and as we  
21 said, the comment period is still open until December  
22 12th, which is this coming Saturday. You can send an  
23 e-mail to me, or you can fax us a comment sheet, or you

1 can mail them -- or you can mail the comment sheet, but  
2 it must be postmarked by December 12th.

3 And with that said, you know, we're  
4 going to close the meeting, and we thank you for your  
5 participation. And since we have about another 30  
6 minutes, the team will be around to ask them any  
7 additional questions you may have, so feel free to come  
8 forward.

9 And once again, we thank you for your  
10 participation. Thank you.

11 (Which were all the  
12 proceedings held in this  
13 matter.)  
14  
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23

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
                                  ) SS:  
2 COUNTY OF GRUNDY     )

3               I, BELINDA A. HARR, being first duly sworn on  
4 oath, say that I am a Certified Shorthand Reporter  
5 doing business in the City of Ottawa, County of  
6 LaSalle, Illinois; that I reported in shorthand the  
7 proceedings of the public hearing held on the 3rd day  
8 of December, 2015, and that the foregoing is a true and  
9 correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken  
10 aforesaid and contains all the proceedings given in  
11 said hearing.

12               IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my  
13 hand this 21st day of December, 2015.

14  
15  
16                               \_\_\_\_\_  
                              BELINDA A. HARR  
                              Certified Shorthand Reporter  
                              Ill. License No. 084-003215  
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